(c) In 1972 the Central Scheme of Environmental Improvement of Urban Slum (EIUS) was introduced to improve the living environment of slum dwellers by providing minimum basic facilities. The scope of the EIUS scheme was enlarged in 1974 and the scheme was made as an integral part of the Minimum Needs Programme and was transferred to the State sector in April, 1974.

In August, 1996 a scheme viz., National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was introduced to provide Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to States/UTs for the development of urban slums. The ACA released under this scheme can be utilised to provide physical amenities like water supply, storm water drains, community infrastructure, community primary health care social amenities like pre-school education, adult education, maternity & child health and primary health care etc. It also has a provision of shelter upgradation. Under this scheme, during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 250.01, Rs. 290.99 and Rs. 353.57 crores respectively were released by, the Central Government to all States/UTs. For the year 1999-2000, Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 385.08 crores out of which upto February, 2000 Ministry of Finance has released an amount of Rs. 332.29 crores to States.

Monitoring of various housing boards

1191. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several Housing Boards, Development Authorities and Improvement Trusts have been set up in different States to deal with and provide housing plots for residential purposes and they are adopting different sets of rules and procedures; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken, at Central level to monitor activities, to aid and advise on modern requirements, protection measures such as from cyclone/flood?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The role of die Government of India as envisaged in National Housing and Habitat Policy is that of an enabler/facilitator.

Monitoring is done by the government of India through regular inter-action with the State Government at meetings at the national level, through visits of officers to the States, by reviewing HUDCO's loaning activities to the various States and through various HUDCO regional offices. The Government of India aids and advises States on modern requirements through HUDCO and the BMTPC in the dissemination of cost effective and environment friendly technology and through a network of building centres. It also aids and advises the State Governments through communication of model laws and bye-laws in the areas affecting housing activities.

Government of India also aids and advises States in securing adequate financial assistance through housing finance institutions including HUDCO and other sources.

As far as natural calamities are concerned, the BMTPC have brought out the Vulnerability Atlas of India which identifies earthquake prone, cyclone prone and flood prone areas in the country. Sets of guidelines have been prepared and communicated to the State Governments on how to make building/ house construction resistant to natural calamities. The Vulnerability Atlas has already been communicated to the States. The advice given by this Ministry through HUDCO and BMTPC covers guidelines for new construction as also guidelines for retrofitting in existing buildings.

Cyclone proof houses in Orissa

1192. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Cyclone-proof house must in Orissa" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 15th January, 2000;

(b) whether the State Government of Orissa has submitted a proposal of Rs. 1,100 crores on this account to HUDCO;

(c) if so, whether the same has been approved; and

(d) if not, by when it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) Yes, Sir.